IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Wonfor

Assignee: Macrovision Corporation

Title: Method and Apparatus for Providing Copy Protection Using a Transmittal Mode Command (as amended)

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PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Dear Sir:
Applicant requests amendment of this application as set for the herein prior to examination.

IN THE TITLE

Please amend the title to read --Method and Apparatus for Providing Copy Protection Using a Transmittal Mode Command--.

IN THE SPECIFICATION

At page 1, line 1, please insert the following continuing data:

--CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATION
This application is a continuation of Application No 09/142,039, filed August 31, 1998.--

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel all of the original claims 1-62 and substitute new claims 63-77 as follows.

63. A method of providing copy protection of signal material transmitted via digital delivery networks, wherein a copy protection signal prevents copying and/or subsequent viewing of the recorded signal material while allowing viewing of the original signal material, comprising:

generating a copy protection command having a mode control command of one or more bit;

transmitting the signal material and the mode control command to a plurality of remote devices coupled to the networks; and

in response to the mode control command, activating the copy protection signal for the signal material in one or more remote device to prevent said copying and/or subsequent viewing of the recorded signal material while allowing viewing of the original signal material.

64. The method of claim 63 including:

transmitting the copy protection signal to the plurality of remote devices; and

applying the transmitted copy protection signal to the signal material in response to the mode control command.

65. The method of claim 63 including:

storing the copy protection signal in one or more of the remote devices; and

recovering the copy protection signal from storage and applying the recovered copy protection signal to the signal material in response to the mode control command.

66. The method of claim 63 wherein:

said copy protection command includes a changeable configuration bit pattern indicative of one or more copy protection signal; and

said copy protection signal is applied to the signal material in response to a corresponding configuration bit pattern selected by the mode control command.

67. The method of claim 66, including:

storing said copy protection signal in respective remote devices;

recovering a selected signal of said one or more copy protection signal from storage in response to a corresponding configuration bit pattern selected by the mode control command; and

applying the copy protection signal to the signal material to modify the signal material such that a copy thereof is un-viewable, is viewable but uncopiable or to cause the remote devices to stop outputting the signal material.

68. The method of claim 66 wherein the mode control command and the configuration bit pattern each comprise one or more bit.

69. The method of claim 66, wherein the copy protection command includes a bit pattern for on/off/mode control and a multiple bit pattern which defines the changeable configuration bit pattern.

70. A system for controlling copy protection of proprietary signal material transmitted via digital delivery networks, wherein a service provider enables a copy protection signal which prevents unauthorized copying and/or subsequent viewing of the recorded signal material by consumers even when the original signal material is watchable, the system comprising:

a service provider center for supplying a copy protection command having a mode control command of one or more bit;

a transmitter for selectively transmitting the signal material and the mode control command; and

a device located with each consumer for providing the copy protection signal and for selectively applying the copy protection signal to the signal material in response to the transmitted mode control command to prevent copying and/or subsequent viewing of the recorded signal material while allowing watching of the original signal material.

71. The system of claim 70 wherein the copy protection signal is transmitted to the device.

72. The system of claim 70 wherein the copy protection signal is stored in the device.

73. The system of claim 70 wherein:

said copy protection command further includes a configuration bit pattern command which determines a programmable operating configuration of the copy protection signal;

the transmitter also transmits the configuration bit pattern command; and

the device selectively applies the programmable operating configuration to the signal material in response to the mode control command.

74. A method of providing copy protection of signal material transmitted to remote devices via digital delivery networks, wherein a copy protection signal prevents copying and/or subsequent viewing of a recorded signal material while allowing watching of the original signal material, comprising.

receiving the signal material and a copy protection command at one or more of the remote devices, which copy protection command is indicative of the copy protection signal to be applied to the signal material;

wherein the copy protection command includes a mode control command of one or more bit for enabling the copy protection signal; and

applying the copy protection signal to the signal material in response to the mode control command in one or more remote device to prevent unauthorized copying and/or subsequent viewing of the recorded signal material while allowing watching of the original signal material.

75. The method of claim 74 wherein the copy protection signal is received to the one or more remote devices.

76. The method of claim 74 wherein the copy protection signal is stored in the one or more remote devices.

77. The method of claim 74 wherein:

the copy protection command includes a programmable configuration bit pattern for determining a selected copy protection configuration to be applied to the signal material; and

the selected copy protection configuration is applied to the signal material in response to the programmable configuration bit pattern enabled by the mode control command.

For questions regarding this amendment, please telephone the undersigned at (408)743-8424.

Respectfully Submitted,

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